(c) whether railways have also agreed to provide more money under the non-plan head;

(d) if so, what are the major projects that are being considered under this programme; and

(e) to what extent Government have developed the railways during 2003-04 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 294.44 cr. (net) has been provided under plan expenditure to the East Coast Railway for taking up various works during 2003-04 (BE).

(c) The non-plan expenditure on the Railways is covered under the Ordinary Working Expenses (OWE). The East Coast Railway has been provided Rs. 1363.29 cr. under OWE in 2003-04 (BE).

(d) The on-going projects in the Zone include New Lines Daitari- Banspani, Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh, Khurda Road-Bolangir, Haridaspur-Paradip and Angul-Sukhida; Gauge Conversion of Naupada-Gunpur and various Doubling works.

(e) The development of Railways is a continuous process, undertaken by funding of infrastructural projects, through the annual Railway Budgets. The requirement towards progressing of these projects is adjudged on the basis of the Railways' own operational requirements. National and strategic requirements of the country as also the social objectives of the Government. The development of the Railways during 2003-04 has similarly been decided through planned allocation towards projects.

Harassment of women on trains

5215. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to stop women's harassment on trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) "Policing" being a subject matter of the State Government, security to passengers, including female passengers, is the responsibility of GRP and State Police. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP).

However, the Railway Administration assist the GRP in controlling crime over Railways and following steps have been taken by the Railways :

1. Steps have been taken to sensitize the RPF personnel to the problems of women passengers by organizing workshops and seminars.
2. Ladies' compartments are escorted in some suburban areas by lady constables of GRP and RPF.
3. Special squads consisting of ladies ticket checking staff and lady RPF personnel have been formed and are operating in Central, South Central and Western Railways to assist the women passengers.

Commemoration of 150 years of Railways

5216. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways organised a year-long celebrations to commemorate 150 years of Railways in India;

(b) if so, what was the budget for the celebrations; and

(c) whether it involved all the Zonal Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 790.27 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Downsizing in Railways

5217. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'human failure' behind rail accidents stems from the paucity of Group 'D' safety category staff and hence Government have decided to fill up 20,000 vacancies therein;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways operations are bound to be labour intensive;

(c) whether keeping in mind the safety aspect, RPF and RPSF have been exempted from Government's downsizing policy;

(d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) are in affirmative how Government explains its policy of downsizing manpower by 2 per cent every year; and

(e) what are the reasons behind accepting the downsizing policy ?